



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2013**

**4:00 P.M.**

## **RESIDENTS REMINDED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM IDENTITY THEFT**

The Greenbelt Police Department is reminding residents to protect themselves from identity theft. Identity theft continues to be one of the fastest growing crimes in America, affecting half a million new victims each year. To help protect themselves from thieves, residents can take the following actions:

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet, unless you are sure who is receiving the information.
- Do not use your credit card number on the Internet unless it is on a secure site.
- Shred all documents, including pre-approved credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks, and other financial information.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of credit cards you carry. Only take what you will actually need.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles and check your statements often for fraudulent charges.
- Check your credit report at least twice a year. Reports should be obtained from all three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

**PREPARED BY:**

**MPO KELLY LAWSON**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

**(240) 542-2116**

**KLAWSON@GREENBELTMD.GOV**

**GPD #13-02**



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